

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2004

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 73**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Simitian**

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Frommer, Liu, ~~and Samuelian~~) Samuelian, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Bogh, Campbell, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Dutton, Dymally, Firebaugh, Garcia, Hancock, Harman, Haynes, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Keene, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Maze, McCarthy, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Pacheco, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Runner, Salinas, Spitzer, Steinberg, Strickland, Vargas, Wesson, Wyland, and Yee)**

(Principal coauthors: Senators Poochigian and Scott)

April 12, 2004

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 73—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 73, as amended, Simitian. Armenian Genocide: Day of Remembrance.

This measure would designate April 24, 2004, as “California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923.” It would memorialize the Congress of the United States to likewise commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One and one-half million men, women, and  
2 children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide  
3 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

4 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide and massacre of the  
5 Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate  
6 all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, To this day revisionists still inexplicably deny the  
9 existence of these horrific events; and

10 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and openly  
11 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians,  
12 California residents demonstrate their sensitivity to the need for  
13 constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, Recognition of the 89th anniversary of this  
15 genocide is crucial to preventing the repetition of future genocides  
16 and educating people about the atrocities connected to these tragic  
17 events; and

18 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic,  
19 having embraced democracy following the dissolution of the  
20 Soviet Union; and

21 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest population of  
22 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched  
23 our state through their leadership in the fields of business,  
24 agriculture, academia, medicine, government, and the arts and are  
25 proud and patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*  
28 *jointly,* That the Legislature hereby designates April 24, 2004, as  
29 “California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of  
30 1915–1923”; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That California respectfully memorializes the  
32 Congress of the United States to likewise act to commemorate the  
33 Armenian Genocide; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the President of the United States, Members

- 1 of the United States Congress, the Governor, and Armenian
- 2 churches and commemorative organizations in California.

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